

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An information providing apparatus for a vehicle comprising:

an off-vehicle information storage device in which a plurality of different types of information to be provided to a plurality of on-vehicle apparatuses, via a telephone line, are stored;

an interactive voice response device configured to allow a user to customize audio guidance ~~used in a subsequent dialogue with the user through an automatic voice response via the telephone line and to store the customized audio guidance in a user information storage device for use in all subsequent dialogue with the user;~~

an information acquisition device configured to obtain a specific type of information from the off-vehicle information storage device based upon the dialogue between the user and the interactive voice response device that uses the customized audio guidance stored in the user information storage device; and

an information transmission device configured to transmit the specific type of information obtained by the information acquisition device to at least one of the plurality of on-vehicle apparatuses.
2. Cancelled
3. (Currently Amended) An information providing apparatus for vehicle according to claim ~~[[2]]~~ 1, wherein:

when providing audio guidance to prompt the user to specify a desired type of information, the interactive voice response device first provides audio guidance to prompt the user to specify whether or not the user wishes to receive the specific ~~a pre-registered~~ type of information.
4. (Currently Amended) An information providing apparatus for vehicle comprising:

an off-vehicle information storage device in which a plurality of different types of information to be provided to a plurality of on-vehicle apparatuses, via a telephone line, are stored;

an interactive voice response device configured to engage in a dialogue with a user through an automatic voice response via a telephone line, to customize audio guidance and store the customized audio guidance in a user information storage device for use in all subsequent dialogues with the user;

an information acquisition device configured to obtain a specific type of information from the off-vehicle information storage device based upon the dialogue between the user and the interactive voice response device; and

an information transmission device configured to transmit the specific type of information obtained by the information acquisition device to at least one of the plurality of on-vehicle apparatuses according to claim 1, wherein:

the interactive voice response device records tabulates information provided to a given the user in the past and provides customizes the audio guidance by using a type of information most frequently provided to the user among different types of information previously provided to the user customized for the user based upon tabulation results.

5. Cancelled

6. (Currently Amended) An information providing apparatus for vehicle according to claim [[2]] 1, further comprising;

a dialog contents storage device in which contents of a dialogue conducted between the user and the interactive voice response device when providing information to the user are stored, wherein:

the dialog contents stored in the dialog contents storage device are indicated to the user.

7. (Currently Amended) An information providing apparatus for a vehicle comprising:

an off-vehicle information storage means for storing a plurality of different types of information to be provided to a plurality of on-vehicle apparatuses via a telephone line;

an interactive voice response means for allowing a user to customize ~~customizing~~-audio guidance ~~associated with a user based on the user's input, wherein the customized guidance is used in a subsequent dialogue with the user through an automatic voice response via the telephone line and for storing the customized audio guidance in a user information storage device for use in all subsequent dialogues with the user;~~

an information acquisition means for obtaining a specific type of information from the off-vehicle information storage means based upon the dialogue between the user and the interactive voice response means that uses the customized audio guidance stored in the user information storage device; and

an information transmission means for transmitting the specific type of information obtained by the information acquisition means to at least one of the plurality of on-vehicle apparatuses.

8. (Withdrawn) An information providing method for providing information to a plurality of on-vehicle apparatuses comprising:

verifying a user calling an information center, wherein the user is aboard a vehicle having the on-vehicle apparatuses;

providing audio guidance that is edited in advance for each user via an interactive voice response apparatus installed at the information center;

determining information desired by the user based upon a dialogue between the user and the interactive voice response apparatus; and

transmitting the determined information to at least one of the on-vehicle apparatuses.